REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-14, 16-17, 22-25, 27, 37, 39, 45 and 49-70 were pending in the application prior to the present amendment. Claims 2, 3, 13, 14, 49, 50, 55, and 57-70 are herein cancelled. Claims 1, 9, 10, 25, 37, 39, 54, and 56 are herein amended. Claims 71-84 are new. Therefore, Claims 1, 5-6, 9-12, 16-17, 22-25, 27, 37, 39, 45, 51-54, 56, and 71-84 will be pending in the application after entry of the present amendment.

Claims 2-3, 6, 13-14, 17, 22-24, and 55-56 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, new claim 71 has been added and includes all of the features of prior claim 2, rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 1. New claim 78 has been added and includes all of the features of prior claim 13, rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 12. New dependent claims 72-77 include all of the features of prior dependent claims 3, 5, 6, 9-11, while new dependent claims 79-84 included all of the features of prior claims 14, 16, 17 and 21-24. Claim 54 has been amended to include the limitations of prior claim 55. Claim 56 has been amended to be dependent on claim 54. Accordingly, claims 54, 56, and 71-84 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In the present Office Action, claims 1, 9-10, 25, 37, 39, 57, 59, 60, and 64 are objected to because of a number of informalities. Claims 57, 59, 60, and 64 have been cancelled. Objections pertaining to these claims are therefore believed moot. Claim 1 has been amended at line 5 to change "multiplexing" to "inverse multiplexing." Claim 9 has been amended at lines 1 and 2 to change "multiplexing" to "inverse multiplexing." Claim 10 has been amended at line 1 to change "multiplexing" to "inverse multiplexing." Claim 25 has been amended at lines 5 and 8 to change "demultiplexer, demultiplex, and demultiplexed" to "multiplexer, multiplex, and multiplexed." Claim 37 has been

amended at lines 4 and 5 to change "demultiplexing and demultiplexed" to "multiplexing and multiplexed." Claim 39 has been amended to be dependent on claim 37.

In the present Office Action, the examiner has requested an explanation on page 11, line 27-29 of how the clock signal can be divided by ten and the data can be read out of the elastic store 350 to meet the clock rate of unit 360 at 155.52 MHz. The Specification has been amended, adding no new subject matter, but merely clarifying how the output clock rate of unit 360 is satisfied while the clock signal from CDR 310 is divided by a factor of 10. It is noted that the amended Specification now recites: "**parallel 9-bit data** from **each** elastic store unit 350 is provided to STS-48c Mapper/Scrambler 360" (page 11, lines 23-24, emphasis added) and that "STS-48c Mapper/Scrambler 360 is also configured to receive overhead data from the STS-48c overhead generator 380 as well as a 155.52 MHz clock signal." (page 11, lines 27-29).

In the present Office Action, claims 1 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Stanger et al. ("Stanger") (USPN 6,097,435). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and requests reconsideration in view of the following discussion.

Applicant submits that claim 1 recites features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art. For example, on page 5, paragraph 10 of the present Office Action, the examiner states that Stanger teaches "[a] data translation unit (a depacketizer 72) for mapping said received data to a predetermined data (encoded data is depacketized by a depacketizer 72, col. 4, lines 40-43)." However, Applicant submits that there are significant differences between Stanger and the features of claim 1 quoted by the Examiner. Claim 1 recites, in relevant part, "mapping said received data **to a predetermined data** ..." In contrast, Stanger discloses:

> "From the input buffer 70, the program signal is provided to a depacketizer 72 which **depacketizes** the signal ..." (Stanger, col. 4, lines 40-42, emphasis added).

Thus, while Stanger refers to "depacketiz[ing]" a "program signal", Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in Stanger of "mapping said received data to a predetermined data," as is recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the cited art for at least the above reasons. As independent claim 12 includes features similar to those of claim 1, claim 12 is believed patentably distinguishable from the cited art for similar reasons. Likewise, each of dependent claims 5, 6, 9-11, 16, 17, and 22-24 is believed patentably distinguishable from the cited art for at least the above reasons as well.

In addition, in the present Office Action, claims 25, 37, and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Rowan et al. ("Rowan") (USPN 6,529,303 B1). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and requests reconsideration in view of the following discussion.

Applicant submits that claim 25 recites features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art. For example, on page 6, lines 14-16 of the present Office Action, the examiner states that Rowan teaches:

"... A data translation unit coupled to the multiplexer configured to translate the multiplexed data to a predetermined data (a unit inherently included in 522 that adds STS-12 framing to complete the STS-12 signal, col. 13, lines 33-35)."

However, Applicant submits that there are significant differences between Rowan and the features of claim 25 quoted by the Examiner. Claim 25 recites, in relevant part (with emphasis added):

"a data translation unit coupled to said multiplexer configured **to translate said multiplexed data to a predetermined data ...**"

In contrast, Rowan merely discloses adding "STS framing to complete the STS-12 signal" (Rowan, col. 13, line 34). Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in Rowan of "translat[ing] multiplexed data to a predetermined data," as is recited in claim 25.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 25 is patentably distinguishable from the cited art for at least the above reasons. As independent claim 37 includes features similar to those of claim 25, claim 37 is believed patentably distinguishable from the cited art for similar reasons. Likewise, each of dependent claims 27, 39, and 45 is believed patentably distinguishable from the cited art for at least the above reasons as well.

Also, in the present Office Action, claims 51, 52, and 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Moshe et al. ("Moshe") (USPN 6,914,941 B1). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and requests reconsideration in view of the following discussion.

Applicant submits that claim 51 recites features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art. For example, on page 9, paragraph 13 of the present Office Action, the examiner states that Moshe teaches:

> "A data translation unit (114) coupled to said clock recovery unit (104), configured to translate said received data to a predetermined data, wherein said predetermined data includes a 9-bit data (Mux 114 adds framing bits to the received serial data output by FIFO 108 in order to obtain an effective data rate for 18 E1 signals of 35.568 Mbps, col. 6, lines 13-27, a 9-bit data is not defined, therefore reads on 9 bits data contained in the effective data rate of 35.568 Mbps)."

However, Applicant submits that there are significant differences between Moshe and the features of claim 51 quoted by the Examiner. Claim 51 recites, in relevant part:

> "a data translation unit coupled to said clock recovery unit, configured to **translate said received data to a predetermined data,** wherein said predetermined data includes a 9-bit data"

In contrast, Moshe discloses:

> "The E3 signal has a data rate of 34.368 Mbps, but the effective data rate of the E1 signals to be used in an IMUX to carry the portions of the E3 signal are multiples of 1.976 Mbps. Thus, there is an effective data rate for the 18 E1 signals of 35.568 Mbps. The difference is handled by using **a bit stuffing technique, wherein meaningless bits are stuffed for framing**

purposes. Frames are built with the bit stuffing used to fill the frame markers. With a standard frame rate of 8000 per second, a total of 150 bits per frame may be stuffed, which is accomplished by framer 116." (Moshe, col. 6, lines 14-23, emphasis added).

Thus, while Moshe discloses "a bit stuffing technique ... for framing purposes", Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in Moshe of "a data translation unit ... configured to translate said received data to a predetermined data," as is recited in claim 51. Applicant submits that claim 51 is patentably distinguishable from the cited art for at least the above reasons. As independent claim 53 includes features similar to those of claim 51, claim 53 is believed patentably distinguishable from the cited art for similar reasons. Likewise, dependent claims 52 is believed patentably distinguishable from the cited art for at least the above reasons as well.
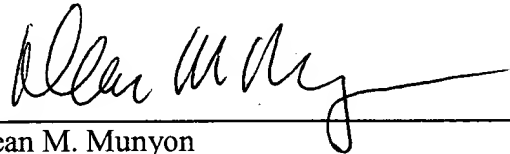
Also, claims 5, 9-11, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Stanger et al. ("Stanger") (USPN 6,097,435) in view of Moshe et al. ("Moshe") (USPN 6,914,941 B1). Claims 27 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rowan et al. ("Rowan") (USPN 6,529,303 B1). In view of the above discussion, and the fact that dependent claims 5, 9-11, 16, 27, and 39 include at least the features of the independent claims upon which they depend, further traversal of these rejections is believed unnecessary at this time.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5957-41000/DMM.

Respectfully submitted,

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